IN THE CLAIMS:

7.   (Amended) A multireactive polymerizable mesogenic compound according to claim

1, wherein R^2 is a group of one of the following formulae

$-X-alkyl-CHP^1-CH_2-CH_2P^2$	Ia
$-X-alkyl-C(CH_2P^1)(CH_2P^2)-CH_2P^3$	Ib
$-X-alkyl-CHP^1CHP^2-CH_2P^3$	Ic
$-X-alkyl-C(CH_2P^1)(CH_2P^2)-C_aH_{2a+1}$	Id
$-X-alkyl-CHP^1-CH_2P^2$	Ie
$-X-alkyl-CHP^1P^2$	If
$-X-alkyl-CP^1P^2-C_aH_{2a+1}$	Ig
$-X-alkyl-C(CH_2P^1)(CH_2P^2)-CH_2OCH_2-C(CH_2P^3)(CH_2P^4)CH_2P^5$	Ih
$-X-alkyl-CH((CH_2)_aP^1)((CH_2)_bP^2)$	Ii
$-X-alkyl-CHP^1CHP^2-C_aH_{2a+1}$	Ik

wherein

alkyl	is straight-chain or branched alkylene with 1 to 12 C atoms which may be unsubstituted, mono- or polysubstituted by halogen or CN, one or more non-adjacent CH_2 groups optionally being replaced, in each case independently from one another, by -O-, -S-, -NH-, -N(CH_3)-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -OCO-O-, -S-CO-, -CO-S-, -CH=CH- or -C≡C- in such a manner that oxygen atoms are not linked directly to one another,
a and b	are identical or different integers from 0 to 6,
X	has one of the meanings given in formula I, and
P^1 to P^5	independently have one of the meanings of P given in formula I.

8.   (Amended) A multireactive polymerizable mesogenic compound according to claim

5, wherein R^2 is a group of one of the following formulae

$-X-alkyl-CHP^1-CH_2-CH_2P^2$	Ia
$-X-alkyl-C(CH_2P^1)(CH_2P^2)-CH_2P^3$	Ib
$-X-alkyl-CHP^1CHP^2-CH_2P^3$	Ic
$-X-alkyl-C(CH_2P^1)(CH_2P^2)-C_aH_{2a+1}$	Id
$-X-alkyl-CHP^1-CH_2P^2$	Ie
$-X-alkyl-CHP^1P^2$	If
$-X-alkyl-CP^1P^2-C_aH_{2a+1}$	Ig
$-X-alkyl-C(CH_2P^1)(CH_2P^2)-CH_2OCH_2-C(CH_2P^3)(CH_2P^4)CH_2P^5$	Ih
$-X-alkyl-CH((CH_2)_aP^1)((CH_2)_bP^2)$	Ii
$-X-alkyl-CHP^1CHP^2-C_aH_{2a+1}$	Ik

wherein

alkyl   is straight-chain or branched alkylene with 1 to 12 C atoms which may

be unsubstituted, mono- or polysubstituted by halogen or CN, one or

more non-adjacent CH_2 groups optionally being replaced, in each case

independently from one another, by -O-, -S-, -NH-, -N(CH_3)-, -CO-,

-COO-, -OCO-, -OCO-O-, -S-CO-, -CO-S-, -CH=CH- or -C≡C- in

such a manner that oxygen atoms are not linked directly to one

another,

a and b   are identical or different integers from 0 to 6,

X   has one of the meanings given in formula I, and

P^1 to P^5 independently have one of the meanings of P given in formula I.

9.   (Amended) A multireactive polymerizable mesogenic compound according to claim 7, wherein alkyl is $-(CH_2)_c-$, with c being an integer from 1 to 12.

13.   (Amended)   A linear or crosslinked polymer obtained by polymerizing a polymerizable mesogenic composition according to claim 11.

Add the following new claim:

17.   (New) A multireactive polymerizable mesogenic compound according to claim 8, wherein alkyl is $-(CH_2)_c-$, with c being an integer from 1 to 12.

MERCK-2155